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MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

Music, drama fill Youth Night for 2005

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Nearly 9,000 Mississippi Baptist youth showed up July 22 at the Mississippi Coliseum for the 2005 version of Mississippi Baptist Youth Night, which featured rising Christian vocalist Lauren Emswiler of Escatawpa along with Birmingham drama group View From the Branch.

"The Youth Night Team really prayed about how to present the Gospel in a different way for this year's Youth Night," said Harvey Ellis, chairman of the Youth Night Team and a consultant in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

The team decided to forego the traditional format of having a keynote speaker after a Christian pop music concert, opting instead to spotlight an original drama presentation from View From the Branch in alternating segments with the concert, Ellis said.

"The View From the Branch folks wrote their presentation exclusively for our Youth Night. We've received both positive feedback on the format and some concerns about not having a main speaker preaching from the Bible, but I believe it turned out well overall. Our thoughts are that we will go back to the main speaker format in the future," he said.

Hundreds of young people crowded the stage area to get a closeup view of Emswiler, a pastor's daughter and participant last year in the American Idol television series. Emswiler is currently negotiating a record deal with a major Christian label, according to sources following her career.

View From the Branch has performed at several Mississippi Baptist venues, including the Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference in December 2004 at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton. Their original presentation at Youth Night '05 dealt with the common struggle among young people between materialism and success in the world and their Christianity.

Ellis said the Youth Night Team is open to suggestions and recommendations as they begin the planning process for Mississippi Baptist Youth Night 2006.

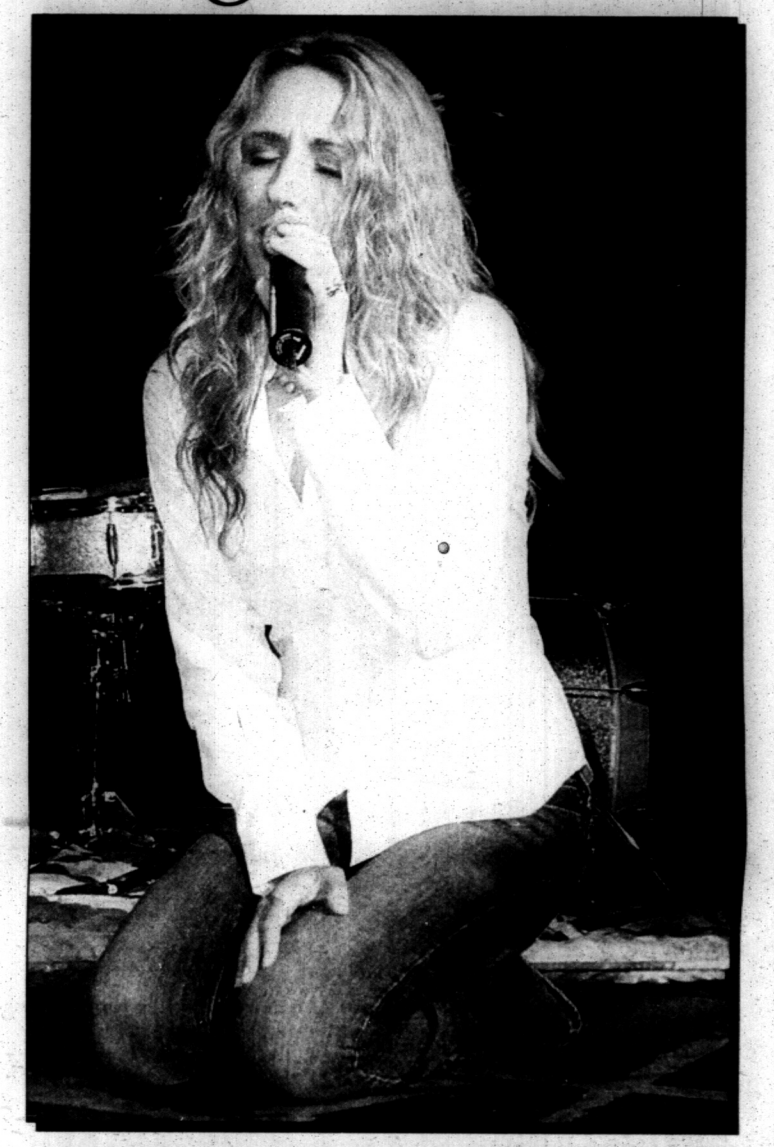
"One item that I already know we need to address is traffic problems before and after Youth Night, caused by not enough gates being open and accessible to the hundreds of vehicles trying to enter and exit the area in a timely fashion. We'll be working on that with the Coliseum staff," he said.

Ellis can be reached at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3286 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 286. E-mail: hgellis@mbcb.org.

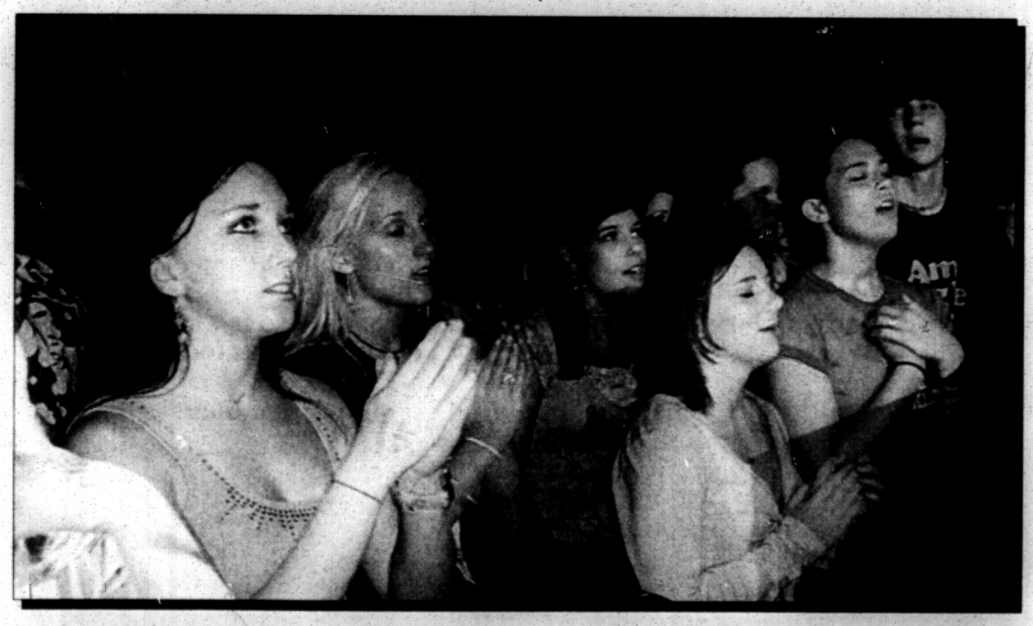
Members of the 2005 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night Team included, in addition to Ellis:

- Mike Brister, minister of youth at First Church, Brookhaven.
- Justin "Fish" Robinson, minister of youth and recreation at North Oxford Church, Oxford.
- Gary Watts, youth ministry leader at Wynndale Church, Terry.
- Lance Word, minister of youth at Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian.

"I want to thank each of these guys for agreeing to serve on the team. They are the backbone of this event every year, and we couldn't have done it without them" Ellis said.



ON BENDED KNEE — Christian vocalist Lauren Emswiler performs at the 2005 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night on July 22 at Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson. Emswiler, who served as worship leader for the annual event, is a Mississippi native who is raising eyebrows in the Christian pop music world after appearing as a contestant last year on the American Idol television series. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



PRAISING GOD — Attendees at the 2005 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night celebration crowd the stage during the performance of Christian pop music vocalist Lauren Emswiler of Escatawpa. Emswiler and Birmingham-based drama group View From the Branch were the featured performers at the annual event. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Miss. Baptist killed in Honduras

NEW ALBANY, Miss. (BP and local reports) — First Church, New Albany, and the surrounding community are mourning the loss of local dentist Ron Feather, who was killed July 26 when the brakes failed on the vehicle in which he was riding during a mission trip to Honduras.

Feather was part of a group of 20 volunteers centered at First Church, New Albany, who traveled to the Central American country to provide healthcare, construction help, and evangelistic outreach. At least six other church members and several volunteers from other groups were injured in the accident, all of whom reportedly have been flown back to the U.S. for medical treatment.

The church's pastor, Malcolm Pinion, was a member of the mission team. He was not in the vehicle that wrecked and was able to minister to the victims as the tragedy unfolded. At press deadline, Pinion remained in Honduras with Feather's body.

Mississippi Baptist churches have enjoyed a long-running relationship with Honduran Baptists, dating back to the days when the Mississippi Baptist Convention sponsored a partnership with Baptists in that country.

"Dr. Feather was a well-respected man in our community," Paul Sizemore, student minister at First Church, New Albany, told the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal in Tupelo. "This is a huge loss to his family and to our church."

Funeral arrangements were incomplete at press deadline.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Why are we Christians?



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

We all know the type — the guy who wears the latest clothing from his favorite university, who plasters his car with stickers from the school and stakes a wood cutout of the school's mascot in his front yard on game day. He's constantly bloviating about his sports acumen (harking back to his days as a "star" athlete) and offering unsolicited advice to anyone within earshot as to what he would have done if he had been the coach.

He's the armchair quarterback, the weekend warrior, the shadow coach saturated in school colors. He's been there, done that, and knows it all. If you don't believe it, just ask him. Yet he is never seen at any of the university's games, never darkens the school's campus, and doesn't even particularly care for the university. He just thinks it's cool and wants to be with the "in" crowd. He's a fake. We all know the type.

Unfortunately, that's also a disturbingly accurate description of too many church members in modern America — including Mississippi. They're gung-ho for Jesus, all right. They have the T-shirts and personalized, red-letter Bible to prove it. They are in their pew every Sunday, loudly proclaiming in song their fealty to God and providing amens to the sermon at every opportunity. They attend the right church events and rub elbows with the right people. Every time the church doors are opened, they are there (especially if there's food involved).

Their outside appearance is just fine, yet on the inside they don't mean a word of what they're saying or doing. It's all social artifice. It's all fake.

Why do they do it? There are probably as many reasons as there are fakers. Some crave the power and influence that have eluded them in other areas of their lives. Some seek business or social connections from which they can profit. For others, it's just a family tradition to be a member of a church somewhere, even if it means nothing.

Does the church need additional workers for the Royal Ambassadors program? Sorry, too busy. How about being a part of that mission trip to eastern Europe? Sorry, too dangerous. The church's homeless shelter needs volunteers to prepare meals and clean up afterward. Sorry, too unappealing.

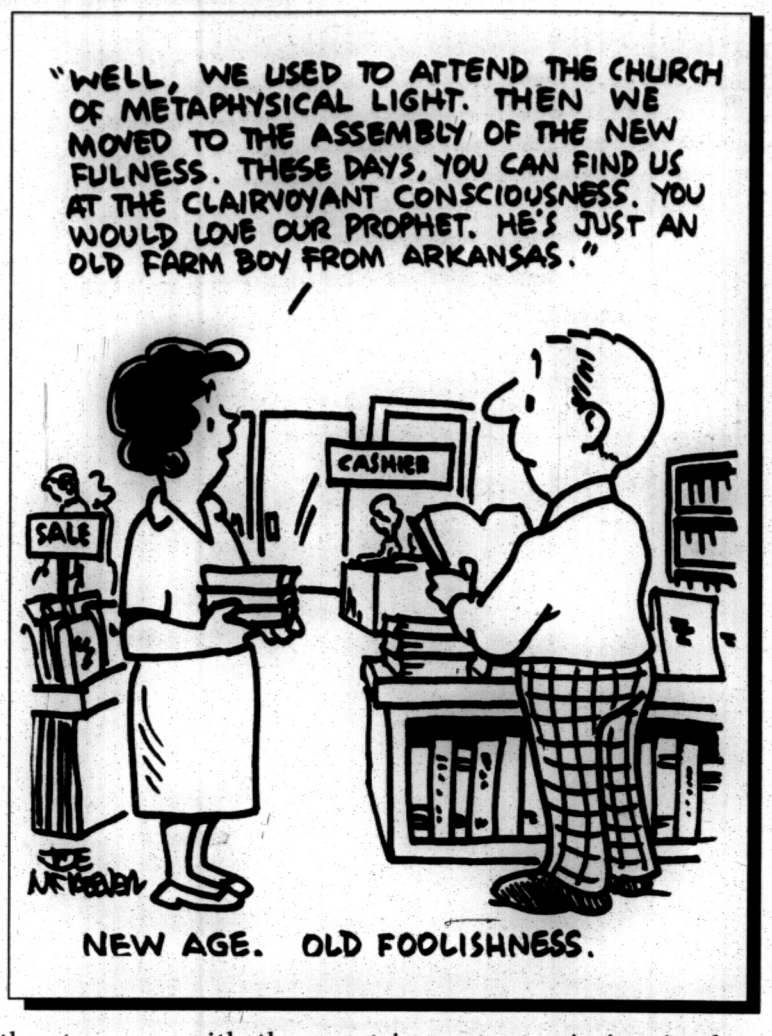
After all, those jobs are done under the radar and could be overlooked by the prominent people in the church. It is all about us, isn't it? It is all about us getting noticed, isn't it? Even if we dress up and put signs in our yards and do all those other fake things, it's all right as long as we can maintain the masquerade, isn't it?

Far too many of us spout the right words and profess to be His followers, without ever walking in His footsteps. Far too many of us claim to be on the team, without ever leaving the stands. Far too many of us talk the talk, but don't walk the walk. The world is not unaware of our insincerity. Sadly, such behavior will have eternal consequences (Matthew 7:22-24).

People see only the outside; that's why we are often so easily fooled by hidden evil. The Lord can see the inside. He can see into our hearts and He can discern our every secret motivation. All our thoughts and deeds are known to Him.

Church is not a social club, and we're not part-time members. Jesus left us with the most important mission in the history of mankind, as described in Matthew 28:18-20. The gravity of our responsibility to see Jesus' plea accomplished cannot be overstated, especially as our country and our world drift farther and farther from the Truth.

We must take up the cross. We must help bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus, and we must do it now before it's too late. Let us throw off the insincerity and false motives that so entangle our witness today, and get the job done before Jesus comes again — and He is coming.



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GUEST OPINION:



Bible Drills and real life

By Hannah Gay, member First Church, Jackson

Several years ago a school shooting occurred in Pearl. I remember well the shock, grief, and anger that permeated our community. I remember also the fear that gripped my heart as it did for so many other mothers of school-aged children. Just a few days after that tragedy as I prayed for my children one morning, the cry of my heart was, "Oh God, is there anything that I can give to my children, any lesson I can teach to them, any guidance I can provide that will protect them from the evil in this world?"

God's answer to my question came from the mouths of my own children as I drove them to school later that morning. They used the time in the car to review verses they were memorizing for Bible Drill. I heard my younger children quoting Psalm 119:105 — "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path," and Isaiah 40:8 — "The grass withers and the flowers fall but the Word of our God stands forever." My older children in Youth Bible Drill were learning Hebrews 4:12 — "For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword...," and Ephesians 6:11 — "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."

Just a few years later, in September, 2001, another of "the devil's schemes" rocked the peace and security of the entire world. At that time two of my children were among the Youth Bible Drill students learning Jesus' words in John 16:33 — "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

When my husband and I visited our son's school for parents' weekend a couple of years ago, one of the teachers there sought us out during the parent-teacher conference time. He called us into his office not to talk about our son's academic progress but to tell us how respected our son had become on campus for his ability to defend his faith. The teacher noted that he was particularly remarkable in the way he always used memorized Scripture. Later we told our son about his teacher's comment and his response was, "What did you expect? You didn't take me to Bible Drill all those years for nothing, did you?"

The Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board provides, via the Bible Drill program, a structure which facilitates effective Scripture memorization for literally thousands of children and youth in our state. This year alone, almost 3,500 children and youth participated in Bible Drill in Mississippi. One hundred eighteen of those were seniors who completed nine years of Bible Drill participation. Even 30 brave adults took on the challenge and participated in adult Bible Drill.

God has promised that the Scripture they have learned, "will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11). Isn't it awesome to think of the blessings that will fall on these students and how they will be used as a vehicle to bless others in the years to come?

For me and my family and on behalf of thousands of others, thank you, Mississippi Baptists, for supporting Bible Drill!

For more information on Bible Drill, contact Don Hicks, Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, Miss-issippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3287, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 287. E-mail: dhicks@mbcb.org.

Acts 1:8 campaign gaining steam in Miss.

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP and local reports) — The Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) is gearing up for a new Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)-wide missions initiative designed to help implement a comprehensive missions strategy involving their community, region, continent, and the world.

Launched in May 2004, the Acts 1:8 Challenge is a simple call for SBC churches to move to a new level of missions commitment by cooperating with their local Baptist association, their state convention, the North American Mission Board (NAMB), and International Mission Board (IMB).



Michel

Churches accepting the challenge commit to eight "Kingdom-growing" responses as they work to intentionally carry out Acts 1:8: to prepare, learn, pray, give, go, tell, send, and multiply. Nearly 1,110 SBC churches have sign up thus far.

State conventions like the MBC are looking to the potential for churches increasing their level of commitment to Christ's mission, said David Michel, associate executive director for missions strategy at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

"Mississippi Baptists first responded to Acts 1:8 by saying, 'We've always been mission-minded... What's new about that?'" Michel said, "but as the Pentecostal potential of adherence to an Acts 1:8 model became more apparent, sensitive church leaders are deepening their intentions to become more missional in every aspect of church life. Acts 1:8 encourages an interactive church experience in both the local and global arenas."

Nate Adams, author of the 2005 Baptist doctrine study focusing on Acts 1:8, said the strength of the challenge is that it provides structure for a church's missions efforts.

"The Acts 1:8 Challenge is becoming what many of us hoped it would — a single, simplified missions message that every church can understand, and a strategic, biblical missions model that every church can embrace," said Adams, vice president of the mission mobilization group at NAMB.

Acts 1:8 is the New Testament passage in which Christ instructs His followers to carry the Gospel to "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth." In the Acts 1:8 Challenge, the four realms correspond to the local community, the state, the nation, and the world.



The Acts 1:8 Challenge is strategically linked with the SBC's Empowering Kingdom Growth (EKG) emphasis. Many churches offering the study, EKG: The Heartbeat of God, by Ken Hemphill have followed with the doctrine study by Adams titled, The Acts 1:8 Challenge: Empowering the Church to Be On Mission.

"I see the [SBC's] Acts 1:8 Challenge as the mission component of the convention-wide Empowering Kingdom Growth initiative," said Hemphill, EKG coordinator for the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville and former president of Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth.

When a church commits to the Acts 1:8 Challenge, it receives a packet of resources to help develop a more comprehensive and intentional missions strategy. Resources include a sermon outline, bulletin insert, video clips on CD-ROM, PowerPoint presentations, and a 60-page leadership guide. Additionally, churches receive specialized ongoing communications and updates from Acts 1:8 partners.

While the leadership guide helps a church evaluate its current effectiveness and implement a plan for the future, other resources such as the sermon outline, videos, and PowerPoint presentations are designed to motivate and inspire the congregation to action.

The International Mission Board sees the Acts 1:8 Challenge as a way to inspire churches to take the Gospel throughout the world. "This expansion of leadership structure allows people to focus on the area of missions that stirs their hearts and passion," said Jerry Daniel, leader of IMB's church and partner services group. "God is awakening the church and people are finding significant ministry opportunities through the Acts 1:8 Challenge."

In Mississippi, 65 churches have accepted the Acts 1:8 Challenge, as have 66 in South Carolina.

"The united focus on Acts 1:8 as the missions strategy of Empowering Kingdom Growth has been a good point of challenge for our churches to look at how they are strategically and intentionally living out the Great Commission," said Debbie McDowell, director of the South Carolina Baptist Convention's missions mobilization group.

Mississippi pastors and missions leaders interested in more information about the Acts 1:8 Challenge can contact Michael at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3231, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 231. E-mail: dmichel@mbcb.org. To register a church, visit www.ActsOne8.com or call (800) 422-8718.

NOBTS offers training

August 15 begins the first of eight courses at seven locations in Mississippi sponsored by New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS). These courses are designed to provide basic training for bivocational music directors and other music leaders in churches. The eight courses are:

- *Song Leading.*
- *Worship Planning.*
- *Reading Music: Rhythm/Pitch.*
- *Reading Music: Harmony/Melody.*
- *Hymnology.*
- *Music Administration/Staff Relations.*
- *Survey of Music Resources.*
- *Class Voice.*

The eight courses meet two hours per week. Each course is eight weeks in length. The cycle of courses is scheduled over a two-year period. Each course is independent and has no prerequisite. Each student who completes the eight courses earns a Church Music Certificate from New Orleans Seminary plus a credit of eight hours toward an on-campus degree program. There is a one-time registration fee of $25.00. The cost of each course is $125.00. A $60.00 scholarship is available for all first-time students. Students already enrolled are not eligible. The grant is limited to one person per church. The first course, Song Leading, will meet once a week for two hours for eight consecutive weeks at the following locations and times:

- Broadmoor Church, Madison, beginning August 15 (7-9 p.m.). Jimmy McCaleb, teacher. (H) 601-924-1233.
- Gulf Coast Association Building, Gulfport, beginning August 15 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.). Patricia Collier, teacher. (C) 228-255-3348.
- First Church, Booneville, beginning August 15 (7-9 p.m.). LuAnne Ford, teacher. (C) 662-728-6272
- Northcrest Church, Meridian, beginning August 15 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.). Buddy McElroy, teacher. (C) 601-681-6615, (H) 601-679-1887.
- Hernando Church, Hernando, beginning August 15 (7-9 p.m.), Barry Tweedy, teacher. (C) 662-429-6361
- Tri-County Associational Building, Columbia, beginning August 16 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Jimmy McCaleb, teacher.

These classes could be offered at other locations in the state also, where 8-10 students are interested in enrolling. For more information, contact McCaleb at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3273 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 273. Web site: www.mbcb.org.

Looking back

10 years ago

Charles Stanley, senior pastor of First Church, Atlanta, relinquishes all administrative responsibilities of the 14,000-member congregation to deal with personal problems related to his troubled marriage.

20 years ago

Beth Boren, a ninth grader and member of First Church, Meridian, becomes the 100,000th teenager in the SBC to attend Centrifuge. The week-long summer camps have exploded in popularity since the program began six years ago.

50 years ago

First Church, Greenwood, experiences one of its most successful youth revivals with four professions of faith, three additions by letter, 32 rededications, and seven coming for full-time Christian service.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST Record

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1. Lord, I admit that I need you. ***(I have sinned.)***

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. ***(I repent.)***

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. ***(I believe in Jesus.)***

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. ***(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)***

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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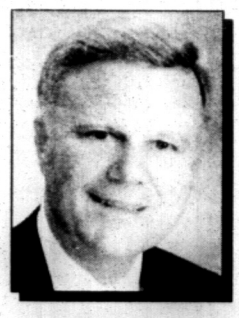
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NURSERY MINISTRY



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

I thank God for the people who work in the church nursery and lovingly take care of the precious children entrusted to them. It is rare that I get to the nursery area and even more rare that I work in the nursery and help care for the children during the worship time. To be honest with you it is so rare that it has never even happened. In spite of that please understand that it is seldom that I am at a worship service preaching and taking part in the glorious praise and song time that I am not mindful of the women and men who have the kind of sweet servant hearts and a willingness to take care of the children while parents come to worship. The nursery provides a ministry that is no small part and in fact, it is a huge significant part of the life of a church.

It might be good for me to explain that I am aware that we are not supposed to call it the nursery. Some years ago I was told that it is not just a babysitting experience, and I was gently reprimanded when I called it the nursery. It is a small timeframe and a window of opportunity for babies, creepers, and toddlers to have a healthy, meaningful, and spiritual experience where they are surrounded with love and care in Jesus' name so that as they grow they will not be traumatized by bad experiences and shudder to think that they have to go to church when they grow older. It is the preschool area and these children are receiving genuine, positive, and uplifting care that will shape their feelings, even though they will not remember the moments.

I am confident that many people come to know the Lord and have a good experience with Him and a wonderful living relationship with the Lord because of the significance of what they experience even before they are old enough to remember experiencing it. You may think that is not possible but, of course, it absolutely is. Think about the children that grow up afraid of dogs or cats simply because as a youngster a dog lunged at them, growled, and traumatized them to the point that when they grow up they continue to have fears of the growls and lunges. That kind of trauma can mark their life.

Ministry to these precious children is truly ministry. Recently I was the guest preacher at a church, and as I stood out in the hall waiting for the service to begin I saw a lady walk over to the window that looked into the bed baby area of the nursery. She seemed to be glued to what she saw and was almost transfixed as she watched these little babies. It was one of those two-way mirrors that allow parents to check on their children and grandparents to gaze at their grandchildren. She was drinking it in and was paying no attention to anyone, especially me so I walked down the hallway about 15 steps and came alongside of her. I said, "Is your child in here?" She was an older lady and she turned to me and said, "Mercy no! I have long since not had any kids in here. In fact, it has been so long my kids' kids aren't even in here." Now when I say she was an older lady I am not sure how old she was, but I am fairly sure she was over 50 and somewhere under 90. I joined her in the view and watched as several people were carefully taking care of these little innocent children. I thought what a wonderful ministry. You see the childcare ministry is a ministry to these precious little ones before they can ever talk, walk, sing, toddle, or even pickup something to rattle. They are being touched by the love of Jesus flowing through the hearts and the hands of these caregivers. They will not recall any of the facts about the care they receive, but something is formed in their little brains and beings about how people care for you, love you, meet your needs, and protect you. While they will not remember the facts, they will carry with them the feelings that come from such a marvelous experience.

Beyond that the nursery ministry is a ministry to their parents. How many times have parents come to a church, left their children in a preschool area, and returned never to return again because they did not receive loving care. I truly believe that the day will come in heaven when we will know how many homes were saved, how many lives were redeemed, and how many life-changing moments in worship took place because caring individuals gave their best caring for little children, even babies as their parents met with the Lord.

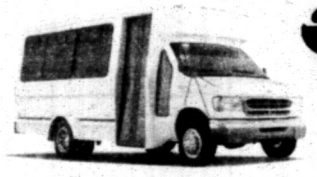
I also believe that it is a ministry to Jesus Himself. Truly it is not just babysitting. It is a ministry unto the Lord. It was Jesus who said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14). Jesus loved little children, and of all the places on the globe where little children should have gracious and meaningful touches in their life it should be at the house of God. Once Jesus said, "When ye have done it into the least of these my brethren you have done it unto me." I believe nursery ministry could be included.

So the bottom-line is if you want to be a blessing to some precious soul in the sight of the Lord, to their parents, and to the Lord Himself make yourself available and become a part of this ministry. If you are already in ministries that keep you from serving, then please pray for those who do serve. Thank them and encourage them in their work. If you do have opportunity to serve then do it. I have heard parents of young children say, "Well I have them all week long, and I do not want to come to church and keep them and others again." I have heard older, more mature saints say such things as, "I have paid my dues, and I am not going to spend any more time in caring for those children." I can understand that too, but here is a fact. You may be needed, God can use you, and you can be a blessing. If you serve with the right spirit and a Christ-like view, I promise that you will receive blessing after blessing.

I do not know how old I was, but I still remember the first time my parents took me to a church to leave me in a nursery. I did not know the people. It was new, different, frightening, and unpleasant to me. I also remember later in the day when my parents came to pick me up, I did not want to leave, and I got upset because I had to go with my parents. I suppose some of that was just childishness, but some of it was because of the good experience I had and the sweet people that cared for me. It was in that church that my mother and dad found their way in the Lord, and it was in that church that my dad heard and responded to God's call to preach. **Nursery ministry does make a difference in people's lives.**

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. RAs, Society Hill Church, Oakvale



2. GAs, Society Hill Church, Oakvale

1. **Society Hill Church, Oakvale**, recognizes their RA's at the presentation of their vests and badges: Back row, Wanda Nace, Johanna Austin, and Luke Cook; second row, Dustin Garvie, Mike Goddard, and Jacob Austin; front row, Alex Pierce and Cody Nace.

2. **Society Hill Church, Oakvale**, recognizes their GA's during the reception of their badges. Back row: Tommy Broom, Kelsey Cooper, Elouise Magee; second row, Vera Dyess, Victoria Yoder, and Caitlin Austin; first row, Jamie Patterson, Carrie Dyess; Daniell Goddard, Hope Cook, Sara Dyess, Jade Goddard, and April Cook.

3. **Longview Church, Starkville**, celebrated 100 years of ministry July 24.

4. The Agricultural Development Foundation will hold its summer meeting Aug. 13 at **Camp Garaywa, Clinton**. Registration begins at 9 a.m.; lunch available; meeting concludes at 3 p.m. Suzanne Barden, IMB missionary to Ethiopia, mission speaker.

5 **New Hope Church, Foxworth**, will host the Providentials Quartet, Ruth, Aug. 7, 6:30 p.m. A love offering will be taken.

Missionary killed in Neb. crash

NORFOLK, Neb. (BP) — Veteran Southern Baptist missionary Dennis Hampton, age 56, was killed in an automobile accident Thursday July 28. His 15-year-old son Joel was riding in the car at the time of the accident but was treated and released from the hospital.



Hampton

Hampton retired in April as a missionary jointly funded by the North American Mission Board and Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, serving as coordinator of the Sandhills Association. He had continued in that position on an interim basis since retirement.

A native of Louisville, Ky., and a graduate of Southern Seminary there, Hampton had planted churches in Massachusetts and Nebraska and also served the Kansas-Nebraska convention as town and country missions strategist.

In addition to his son, he is survived by his wife Elaine and three adult children. Funeral arrangements are pending in Norfolk, Neb., and will be posted as soon as they are available on the Kansas-Nebraska convention's website, www.kncsb.org.

AUGUST 19 - 20, 2005

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Executive Director
Florida Baptist Convention



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Bob Pitman, Pastor
Kirby Woods Baptist Church
Memphis, Tennessee



Tuesday 8/9 7:00 pm
Johnny Hunt, Pastor
First Baptist Church
Woodstock, GA



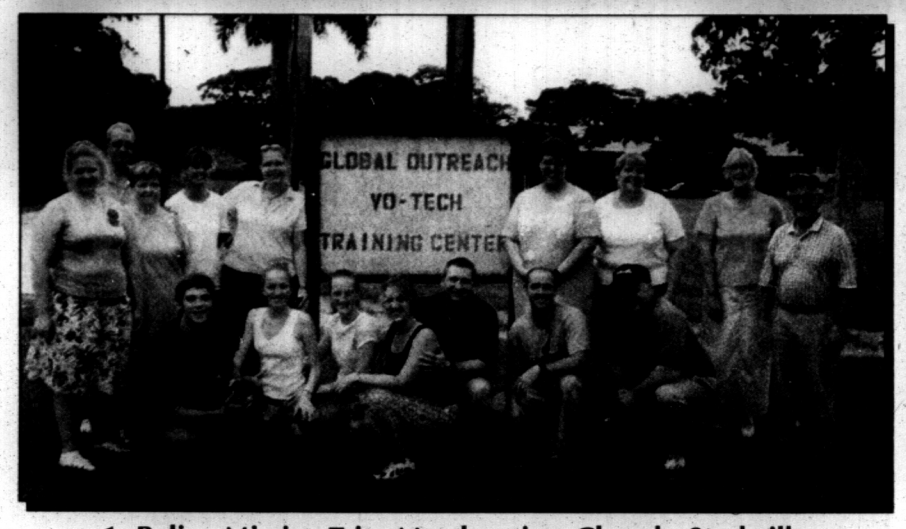
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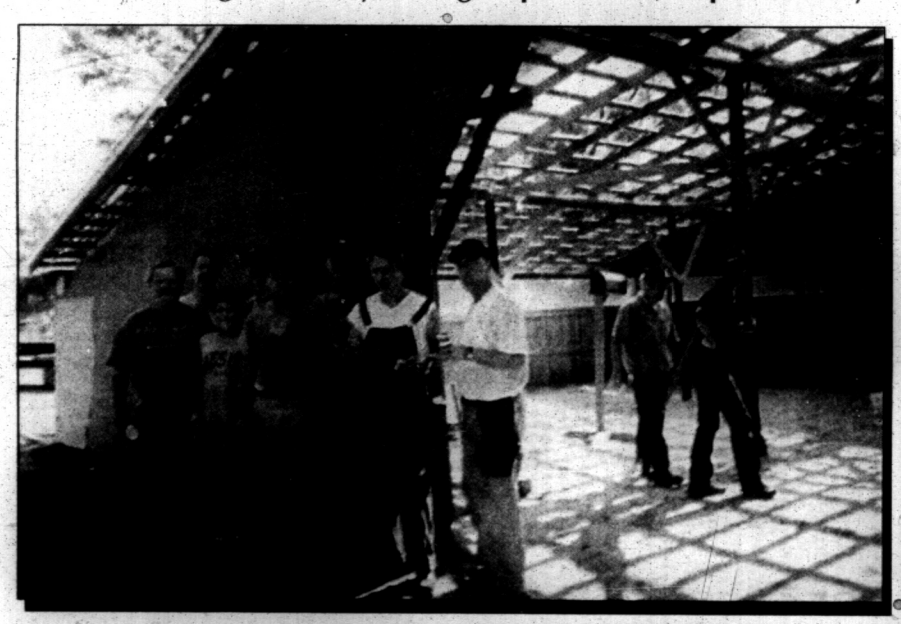
JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Belize Mission Trip, Meadowview Church, Starkville



2. Noteburning Ceremony, Strong Hope Church, Copiah County



3. Helping Hands, Mt. Zion Church, Columbus



4. Honoring Ossie Gunn, Harmony Church, Walnut

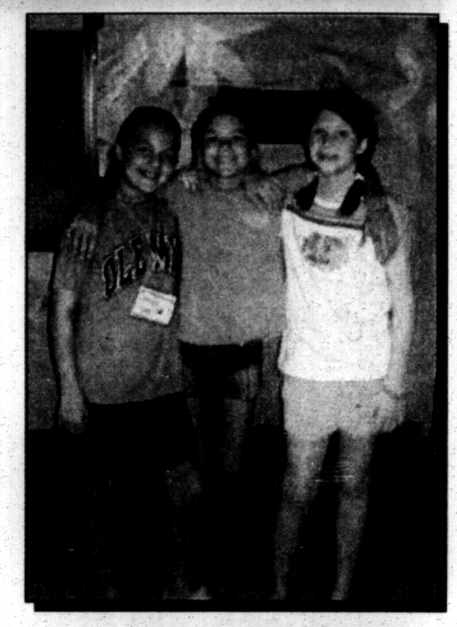
1. **Meadowview Church, Starkville**, recently sent 16 team members to Belize to conduct a VBS, visit two children's homes, and minister in a Global Outreach Vo-Tech Boys School in Belmopan, Belize. Shown are the team members.

2. **Strong Hope Church**, Copiah County, held 130th anniversary services by hosting a homecoming service and note burning. John Stevens, speaker. Shown are Don Cagle, David Crowe, Danny Farmer, and Gordon Allen.

3. Volunteers from **Mt. Zion Church, Columbus**, joined volunteers from Kolola Springs, Caledonia; Mt. Zion Presbyterian; New Salem, Columbus; and Weyerhaeuser employees to replace the 50-year-old roof on the barn of the R.I.D.E.S. Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center, Caledonia, June 4 and 11.

4. **Harmony Church, Walnut**, recognized Ossie Gunn for 52 years as church pianist. Shown are Brian Tatum, Drew Smith, Gunn, Larry Gunn, and Joel Wooley.

5. **North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton**, GAs Maggie Lloyd, Annie Marie McClain, and Jordan Haynes recently attended GA camp at Camp Garaywa.



5. GAs, North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton

6. **First Church, Guntown**, celebrated 150 years of service July 10 Shown are Wayne Gullett, vice-president of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission, presenting a plaque to chairman of deacons Wayne Phelps. Also shown are the church deacons.

7. **Trinity Church, Pearl**, took part in Crossover Nashville, June 18. The group was one of many which witnessed in the communities around Nashville, Tenn. Shown are Richard Dyess, Wade Rawson, Kenny Goff, Clay Faircloth, Joseph Sartor, and Donny Goff.



Duane and Iris Blue will be at **Faith Church, West Point**, Aug. 14, 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., sharing their testimony. Ben Yarber, pastor.





6. 150 Years of Service, First Church, Guntown



7. Helping Hands, Mt. Zion Church, Columbus

OBITUARY

D. W. Green, pastor and interim pastor at several Mississippi churches for over 40 years, passed away July 14 after a lengthy illness. He was an alumni of William Carey College. His last pastorate was Bond Church in Philadelphia.

Just for the Record

8. **Beulah Church, Inverness**, held a note burning July 10 to dedicate their new sanctuary. Shown are Robert Ragland Jr., Danny Turner, Robert C. Ragland, Brenda Loper, Freda McLendon, and Howard Johnson.

9. GA's and RA's from **Faith Church, West Point**, collect 86,298 pennies to make a Mile of Pennies for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Shown are the participants.

10. The youth of **Smithville Church, Smithville**, recently participated in local missions activities, including doing yard work and cleaning for several elderly people in the community. Shown are the students.

11. The Children in Action group of **Pleasant Hill Church, New Albany**, recently met with the Davis family, IMB missionaries to South Africa, in Somerville, Tenn. The children have been corresponding with Simeon Davis, center in photo. Leaders are Tim and Gwen Roberson and Ann Witcher.

12. **Singleton Church, Winston Association**, honored two of the three surviving charter members of the church during homecoming on June 12. Shown are Inez Rogers, seated, and Pauline Richardson. Wayne Sanders, pastor.

13. **Escatawpa Church, Escatawpa**, sent volunteer missionaries to Brazil June 24-July 9, to construct a church building in the city of Joaquim Pires.

14. **Trinity Church, Pearl**, will host Frank Hardeman in concert Aug. 28, 6 p.m. For more information, call (601) 939-7538.



8. Note burning Ceremony, Beulah Church, Inverness



9. RAs & GAs Penny Collection, Faith Church, West Point



10. Youth Mission Activities, Smithville Church, Smithville



11. Children In Action,Pleasant Hill Church, New Albany

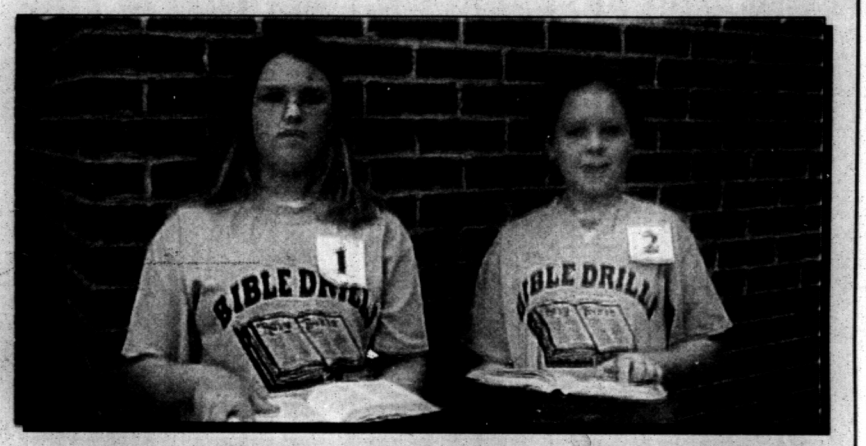


12. Charter Members, Singleton Church, Winston Association

Bible Drillers



Pope Church, Pope, congratulates its Bible drill team. Shown, back row, are Walt Karr, Matt Hendrix, Brittany Ross, and Annah Bailey; front row, Amelia Bailey, Maegan Bolton, Ashley Roy, and Haley Beth Allen.



First Church, Boyle, recognizes their children's Bible drill participants. Shown are Jessica Mullins and Brittney Barnes, associational perfect and state perfect winners.





First Church, Grenada, recognizes their Bible drillers. Shown are Karen Connerley, Caleb Cummings, Cassie Cummings, Kristen Vance, and Linda Barnette.



Society Hill Church, Oakvale, recognizes their Bible drillers: Leader Becky Coleman, Carrie Dyess, Luke Coleman, Sara Dyess and Vera Dyess, leader.

Bibliocipher

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FCL GM AFXI MY DFPP, MSFM, TSIC KIPOP TFP ZIMOZCIL, MSI DIYDBI NBFLBR ZIAIGWIL SGX: EYZ MSIR TIZI FBB TFGMGCN EYZ SGX.

BOVI IGNSM: EYZMR

Clue: R = Y

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Three: Twenty-Nine.

Staff Changes

Shiloh Church, Big Creek, has called Brandon Powell as their minister of youth. Powell is a student at Blue Mountain College.

First Church, Poplarville, has called F. Carroll Farmer as associate pastor of education and senior adults. Farmer has served churches in Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama; he and his wife Pat are natives of Jackson.

Ordinations



1. Ordination of George, Wheeler Grove Church, Alcorn Co.



2. Deacon Ordination, Wheeler Grove Church, Alcorn Co.

1. **Wheeler Grove Church, Alcorn Co.**, ordained David George to the gospel ministry. Shown is George and Kara Blackard, pastor.

2. **Wheeler Grove Church, Alcorn Co.**, ordained four new deacons. Shown, seated, is Dean Lawrence; standing, left to right, is Adam Fowler, Ronnie Wilhite, and Gary Stewart.

3. John Davis was ordained to the gospel ministry recently. Shown is Gary Roberson, pastor of Midway Church, Calhoun Association, and Davis. Davis serves as youth pastor of **Shady Grove Church, Batesville**.

4. **Springfield Church, Morton**, recently ordained Jeremy Watts to the gospel ministry. Shown are are Frank Lay, pastor, and Watts.

5. David Addy, pastor of **Sunrise Church, Carthage**, recently licensed John Sanders to the ministry. Sanders is available for interim or pulpit supply. Call (601) 298-0556.



3. Ordination of Davis, Shady Grove Church, Batesville



4. Ordination of Watts, Springfield Church, Morton

Vacation Bible School



1. Evansville Church, Coldwater



2. Temple Church, Petal

1. **Evansville Church, Coldwater,** recently held their VBS, during which the children gave $1,020 in pennies for missions. Shown are the participants.

2. **Temple Church, Petal**, held VBS July 12–15, 6–8 p.m. Students ranged in age from 3 years–8th grade.

3. **Drew Church, Drew**, recognizes the four-year-old class of their VBS. LeeAnn Cummins, teacher.

4. **Shiloh Church, Foxworth**, held VBS June 12–17, with an average attendance of 60. The adult class had eight enrolled. Shown, seated, are Mylvia Williamson, Grace Jones, Dot Campbell, and Billie Sue Pittman; standing, Emma Lou Mullins, Pat Jones, Helen Jones, and Martha Broom.

5. Children from **Faith Church, West Point**, prepare to release balloons containing a Bible verse and information on VBS July 25-29. Shown are the children.

6. **LeMoyne Church, Biloxi,** held its VBS June 13–17. Denise King, VBS director; Bill Renick, pastor. Shown are some of the participants.



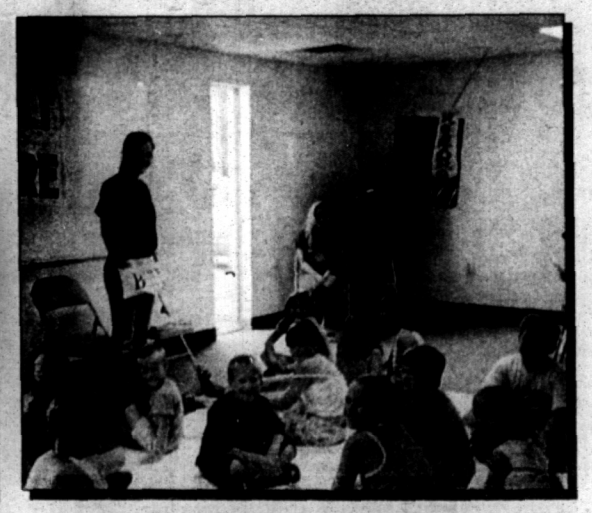
3. Drew Church, Drew



4. Shiloh Church, Foxworth



5. Faith Church, West Point



6. LeMoyne Church, Biloxi

Revivals & Homecomings

Belden Church, Belden: Revival, Aug. 21–24, 7 p.m.; Jackie Kay, evangelist.

Calvary Church, Canton: Revival, Aug. 7–10; Sun., 10:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Mon.–Wed., 7 p.m.; fellowship meal following Wed. service; Eddie Hamilton, preaching; Jimmy McCaleb, music; Tom Rayburn, pastor.

Crooked Creek Church, Silver Creek: Homecoming, Aug. 7; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and gospel singing; La Rue Stephens, preaching; Larry Davis, music director; Justin Hase, pastor.

Elon Church, Macon: Revival, Aug. 7-10; Sun., 11 a.m.; Sun.–Wed., 7 p.m.; Dickie Bryan, speaking; Steve and Becky Carver, music.

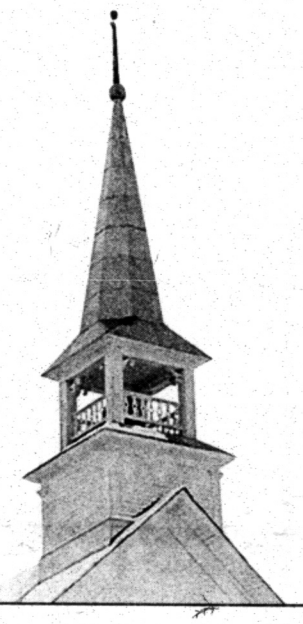
Fellowship Church, Ellisville: Homecoming, Aug. 14; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds, with singing following; W. A. Fordham, speaking; Eudell Hill, pastor.

First Church, Ovett: Homecoming, Aug. 7; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship 11 a.m., with lunch following; singing and testimonies after lunch. Kerry Holifield, music director; Nat Blackledge, pastor.

First Church, Picayune: Revival: Aug. 1, Jim Futral, preaching; Luke Garrett, music; Aug. 8, Hosanna in concert; Aug. 15, Tony Lambert, preaching; Crossgates Worship Team, music; Aug. 22, Sonny Adkins, preaching; Shelly Overby, music. Services at 6:30 p.m.

Kreole Avenue Church, Moss Point: Revival, Aug. 14–17; Sun., 10:45 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and 6 p.m.; Mon.–Thurs., 7 p.m.; Mike Glenn, preaching; Don Womble, pastor.

Magee's Creek Church, Walthall County: Homecoming, Aug. 14; Sunday School, 9:45; worship, 10:45, followed by covered dish lunch and afternoon music service; Joe Blackwell, speaker; 4



Grace Quartet, music; Jimmy Jones, pastor.

New Fellowship Church, Hickory: Homecoming, Aug. 7; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; **Revival, Aug. 8–10**, 7 p.m.; Phillip Gandy, preaching; Gary Thorne, music.

Providence Church, Grenada: Revival, Aug. 7–10; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.–Wed., 7 p.m.; covered dish meals following each service; speakers, Neil Gant, Truman Scarborough, Robert Clark, Bernette Fielder, Fletcher Moorman; music, Don Montgomery; pianist, Tena Taylor.

Rocky Springs Church, Yazoo Association: Homecoming, Aug. 7; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Byan Presson, speaking; New Genesis, music; Glenn Warrington, pastor.

Salem Church, Potts Camp: Youth Campfire Revival, Aug. 19; food and other activities provided; David Heaton, Memphis, speaker. For more information, call (662) 333-9436.

Society Hill Church, Society Hill: Revival, Aug. 7-12; Sun., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Mike Grenn, evangelist; Arlis Nichols, 1 p.m. service; Rob Schepers, music; Billy Paul Cooper, minister of music; Tommy Broom, pastor.

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MS Positions

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PEARL, Miss., is accepting resumes for the position of church secretary. This is a full-time position. The candidate must have sufficient computer skills related to general office functions. Competitive salary and benefits. Send resume to First Baptist Church of Pearl, 405 N. Bierdeman Road, Pearl, MS 39208 or email to www.fbcpearl.org.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MADISON, MISS., is seeking a dynamic and passionate teacher of God's word to immediately fill the full-time position of minister of education. Please mail letters of interest with credentials to FBC Madison, P.O. Box 400, Madison, MS 39130-0400, or email Shari Hurt, pastoral secretary at shurt@fbcmadison.org.

FIRST CHURCH, MIZE, is accepting resumes for the following part-time positions. Minister of music, minister of youth, and minister of music & youth. Interested individuals should send their resume to First Baptist Church, search committee, P.O. Box 265, Mize, MS 39116 or email pastor@fbcmize.com. Deadline to submit resumes is August 17. For more information contact Jonathan Russell at (601) 733-2233.

MINISTER OF MUSIC: First Baptist Church in Greenville, Miss., is seeking a dynamic individual to oversee its music and worship ministries. Approx. Sunday School attendance 400, blended worship, TV and radio ministry. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1163, Greenville, MS 38702, www.fbcgreenville.net.

PART-TIME MUSIC ASSISTANT needed for the instrumental/orchestra ministry of a Pearl/Brandon area southern baptist church. Call Ronnie at (601) 946-9406 for more information.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN ROLLING FORK, Miss., is currently seeking a director of youth. Please send resumes with references to youth committee chairman, First Baptist Church, 73 North Second St., Rolling Fork, MS 39159.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH in Hattiesburg, Miss. is currently seeking a Director of childhood ministry. Please send resumes with references to committee on childhood ministry, Calvary Baptist Church, 3139 Oak Grove Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

FULL-TIME MINISTER TO CHILDREN NEEDED: First Baptist Church, West Point, Miss. First time position will be responsible for working with newborns through six graders. Seminary degree with emphasis in childhood education preferred. Send resumes to FBC, children's minister search, P.O. Box 794, West Point, MS 39773.

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MURPHY CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH, LOUISVILLE, MISS., is seeking a part-time youth director. Please send resume and references to Murphy Creek Baptist Church, attn: .youth director search committee, 5420 Bond Road, Louisville, MS 39339.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, LAMBERT, MISS., is seeking a part-time minister of music. Please send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 145, Lambert, MS 38643 or contact church office at (662) 326-7772, 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon, Monday - Friday. Call Don' O'Quinn after 6:00 p.m. at (662) 326-7336.

VALLEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Pontotoc Association seeks part-time (bivocational) youth minister. Housing available, mail resume to 815 Kings Hwy, Pontotoc, MS 38863.

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

June 13 - June 30

MEMORIALS

Mr. John Blount Stephenson
Dr. & Mrs. Linuel D. Jayroe
JoAnn Stocton
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew J. Churchwell
Harold Stringer
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Dale & Family
Edward P. Stuart, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Kirby
Mr. John Taylor
Myrtle Goolsby & Family
Mrs. Tressie Thigpen
Mr. & Mrs. Haughey D. Wallace Jr.
Dietra Torpin
Mr. & Mrs. S. S. Crocker
Mr. Ned Travis, Jr.
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Mrs. Yvonne Tucker
Ms. LaDell Graham
Chuck & Traci Holland
Mickey & Joyce Schrader
Mr. Glen Van Norman
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Dixon
Rayford Varnado
Union Church Baptist Church
Jessie Jo Wall
The Manning Family
Mr. & Mrs. Carl R. Woolery
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Mrs. Maxine Ward
Kimberly Faulk & Family
Tammy Ware
Ms. Ann S. Danna
Mrs. Helen Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Richardson
Margaret C. Young
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Kolb
Janie Vinson

July 1 - July 31

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Mrs. Patsy Kendrick
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Bea Foster
Mr. & Mrs. Aubry L. Hays
Dr. Scott George
Mrs. Frankie Millis
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Dr. Lee F. Mason
Cody M. Grace
Dr. Lee F. Mason
Mrs. Shirley Graham
Jerusalem Baptist Church
Cary & Lisa Guy
Mrs. Vangie Fields
Mrs. Irene Hendrix
Barbara Hendrix
Mrs. Robert (Christine) Hicks
Mrs. Patsy Kendrick
Miss Caroline Ivy Hubbard
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Hubbard
Mrs. Jan G. Jayroe
Dr. Linuel D. Jayroe
Mrs. Jennifer W. Kelly
Dr. & Mrs. Linuel D. Jayroe
Mr. Clete McCurley
Mrs. Peggy Shuckrow
Mrs. Doris Murphy
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Dora Murray
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Noelle Ray
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Mrs. Mattie Rials
Ms. Glenda C. Fry
Russell Schmidt
Ms. Glenda C. Fry
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell R. Smith
Mrs. Alton L. Fields
Mrs. Pat Speyerer
Ms. Glenda C. Fry
Maitland (Buck) & Donna Steele
Ms. Glenda C. Fry
Rev. Dusti Stockstill, Kelly, Gr
Mr. & Mrs. Roy D. Hendricks
Mrs. Jackie Waggoner
Dr. & Mrs. Linuel D. Jayroe
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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Once and Future Life

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10



Royce

My hometown is quite near the Atlantic coast, so I yearn for the ocean. I need to be there once in a while. Even people who've never seen the sea also look forward to their first trip there. Our unit this month asks the question, "After This, Then What?" In our Scripture passage for this week, Paul answers this question about life after this life with glorious assurances about our eternal future in Christ. He helps us yearn for a place we've never seen.

Recognize that Death Is Not the End (4:16-18) — Contextual clues may assist us in understanding this week's passage. A certain stream of Jewish thought taught that blessings in a person's life indicated God's favor and suffering indicated God's displeasure. (Think of Job's "comforters" and the question of Jesus' disciples about the man born blind, John 9:1.) Paul may have had to deal with Christians who looked down on him because of his suffering for Christ; perhaps they regarded these sufferings as indicative of God's reproach. Perhaps some Corinthian Christians did not understand Paul's suffering because they did not share it. Even if Paul's primary motivation in writing these verses was to justify his suffering as Christ's servant, we also benefit because his faithful perspective helps us endure when we encounter suffering of our own.

Paul's principles for enduring suffering are simple to mention but hard to do and keep on doing: 1. Recognize the reality of your own suffering. Paul knew his physical body was "being destroyed." 2. Count on God to keep on renewing your spirit. 3. Put the suffering in perspective. It is temporal, and though it can be very bad indeed, it does not compare to the "absolutely eternal weight of glory" to come. 4. Look for something good the suffering is producing. Paul saw his suffering as "producing" the eternal glory to which he had referred. 5. Focus on the eternal, spiritual glory to come, rather than on the present suffering.

Yearn for Something Better (5:1-5) — I did a lot of camping as a child. My family had a lot of fascinating adventures in that leaky old camper. Yet, no matter how interesting our experiences were, we were never sorry to get out of the tent pop-up trailer and into our real, stationary house. Our traveling lives on earth are full of experiences, some good, some bad, but they are all temporary. On earth, we are living in tents. No matter how good our lives are now, our camping lives here do not compare with the lives we will know forever in God's eternal presence. Paul was yearning, or groaning, for his new home, where he knew he would never be "naked," perhaps a reference to the state of being ashamed and without excuse in God's judging presence. In the life to come, our present mortality will be "swallowed up by life." The down payment on this wonderful gift is the presence today of the Holy Spirit within us. Some day we will stand joyfully in our gloriously resurrected bodies in the presence of Christ.

Prepare for Death (5:6-10) — Paul declared that he was content to walk by faith, not sight, in the present world and that he was also "confident and satisfied" to leave his present body and live "at home with the Lord." Either on earth or in heaven, he aimed to please Christ, recognizing that all of us must "appear before the judgment seat of Christ" where our works on earth will be "repaid," whether "good or bad." Of course, a Christian's salvation is never in any doubt. Remember, these words were written by the apostle of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. The verse does remind us of the way we should live as we yearn for our new life in God's home. Along with Emily Dickinson, we can "see" the heavenly "sea."

I never saw a moor,
I never saw the sea;
Yet know I how the heather looks,
And what a wave must be.

I never spoke with God,
Nor visited in heaven;
Yet certain am I of the spot
As if the chart were given.

- Emily Dickinson

Rhoda Royce is a member of First Church, Clinton.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Use Godly Tact and Discretion

Daniel 1:8,12-16; 2:14-16; 4:19,27



Schuman

Daniel had at least one thing in common with Ezekiel — both were taken away from Israel into captivity by the Babylonians. Though the times and settlements of their captivities differed, they were probably aware of each other. Ezekiel referred to the strong witness of Daniel, Noah, and Job (Ezekiel 14:14,18). He also referred to the wisdom of Daniel (Ezekiel 28:3).

The New Testament acknowledges Daniel, also. Jesus referred to Daniel's prophecy regarding the Abomination of Desolation (Matthew 24:15). Hebrews 11:33 alludes to an incident in the life of the prophet Daniel ("stopped the mouth of lions").

1. Avoid Sinful Compromise (Daniel 1:8,12-16)

Among those from Israel carried away into captivity in this wave were the strong, intelligent, and even handsome young princes of the land. These were to be trained to serve in the court of king Nebuchadnezzar. They would be offered the best of everything by Babylonian standards. But God's standards are highest, and God's ways are best. Four Hebrews chose the best.

It would have been easy for Daniel to compromise his biblical convictions regarding the king's food for several reasons. He could have been beheaded, expelled from the service, or set aside from any promotion for defying the king (v. 10). All but his fellow three Hebrews were apparently partaking of the king's food. Peer pressure could have caused sinful compromise. The king's food was regarded as the best and likely would have tasted better than just "pulse," or vegetables. They were hundreds of miles away from their homeland. Who would find out? And finally, another reason to compromise could have been bitterness toward God for allowing him to be taken into captivity in the first place.

All of these excuses to compromise our Christian principles are applied in various forms today. The businessman traveling away from home, the career-oriented employee, the teenager or young adult out with a friend or friends — all of us can find ourselves in compromising situations. Let us be careful to avoid sinful compromise.

2. Seek Sound Solutions (2:14-16,30)

In chapter 2, Nebuchadnezzar was troubled by a dream. Part of the trouble was he couldn't remember it! After the wise men of Babylon (excluding Daniel and the Hebrew Three) could not reveal and interpret the dream, the king ordered all the wise men to be rounded up and executed — a rather rash solution to his problem.

Daniel was not only wise in training (1:17-20), he was tactful in his handling of situations. Seeking sound solutions requires us to be "wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16).

Daniel requested time from the king while the Hebrews prayed. "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16), and their prayers were answered. God revealed the dream and its interpretation to Daniel. Daniel was wise to offer a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God right after his first prayer was answered.

He was also wise to proclaim the glory of God to the king. Sometimes we must recognize the solution to a problem is beyond our capabilities. We must acknowledge our dependence on God for a solution. Let us be sure to thank and glorify Him when He does provide a solution.

3. Give Kind Counsel (4:19,27)

In chapter 4, Nebuchadnezzar was troubled by yet another dream that no other wise man of Babylon could interpret. When Daniel was told the dream, he was so appalled that he couldn't answer for some time. Sometimes our best counsel is not saying anything right away, but rather, allowing God time to direct our counsel (cf. Psalm 16:7).

Daniel could have told Nebuchadnezzar, "Old boy, now you are about to get what you deserve, and I'm glad to live to see it!" When we are in a counseling situation, we should remember to give kind counsel. Sure, some folks are suffering from the consequences of their sins, but an "I told you so!" attitude will not help them at the time they most need help.

Nebuchadnezzar rejected Daniel's counsel to turn to righteousness. He suffered for seven years for that rebellious heart. Psalm 107:9-11 reminds us it is never wise to rebel against the counsel of God.

Speaking of counseling, Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged that Daniel's ability was supernatural (4:9,18). We Christians today have the blessed Holy Spirit of God, who is our supernatural Comforter to counsel and teach us (John 14:26).

Schuman is pastor of Hamilton Church, Ashland.

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July 11-15

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